



Organizing urban furniture and its effect on the urban landscape (Case study: Semnan)

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Abstract: Urban furniture is the most common term applied in the field of urban equipment in Persian. This equipment in countries like the UK and US is known as street, public, or open space furniture, which is known as the constituent elements of urban space.

Organizing urban elements and furniture in the urban space is done with expert like studies along preserving the historical identity of each civilization that is the result of legacy and civilization of our ancestors in this city. This way one can create a delightful, charming, and identity-based atmosphere while creation of ease of mind for citizens based on native and cultural values of citizens and residents. Considering the problems of urban life and psychological perturbations of the people living in large cities due to environmental problems and various visual disturbances, urban planners today have been prompted to take action in order to create space to meet all the needs of city residents by considering environmental and cultural conditions prevailing in each region. One part of this organization is in the field of urban furniture, including the proper identification and replacement after studying, hypothesizing, and placement of production and installation that are the final stages of this process. Semnan is a great city with ancient historical, cultural, and Islamic backgrounds with its own special features. Given the extent and population of this city, the design of physical space of the city regarding streets, sidewalks, parks, and public spaces is of great importance and sensitivity. Moreover, according to studies on urban space, there is a dire need of revising the type and arrangement of urban furniture and organizing it according to climatic, cultural, social conditions, and urban identity, which should be concerned by urban managers and planners.

Keywords: Organizing , urban furniture, effect, urban landscape, Semnan.

Introduction

Introduction:

Nowadays, cities are not only a place to stay, but they are also considered as the physical space of people's thinking and feeling. Accordingly, its total and constituent elements quality must always be taken into consideration.

City as human living environment is constantly changing, dynamic, growing, and its quality is improving. Continuous and accelerated change of environment is one of the features and on the other hand, a necessity of our time.

Undoubtedly, creating compatibility between man and the environment increases the performance and thus destructs physical and spiritual hurt in the health of the community. One of the important factors of human comfort is the beauty of the surroundings, and human built environment affects the beauty of city landscape.

Human behavior is the function of the interaction between environmental and personality dimensions, and the value of the environment and the elements within it, as perceived data, become so important that attention to them will not only be very necessary but also obligatory.

The city has always been a mirror and a symbol of civilization of a nation and its constituent elements including buildings, streets, sidewalks, equipment, and facilities available within it have had a role in actions or reactions to the environment and landscape in a favorable or unfavorable form. The result of attitude and confidence in the continuous performance modification and the beautification of spaces and bodies of urban elements will bring about dignity and excellence of the citizens, and the lack of it, will lead to abnormalities in the urban landscape. Organizing and layout of urban furniture elements and placing them in the urban environment play a significant role in the establishment of its true beauty, adornment, and most importantly, mind, emotional, and intuitive peace of citizens.

Urban elements such as benches, trashcans, bus stations, vases, kiosks, bars flags, shelters, lighting pillars, and barrier and so on are considered as urban furniture. In Iran, especially in large cities, urban furniture has been discussed and examined from different dimensions in terms of aesthetic. Moreover, to achieve the required indicators, standards, and identification of urban environment, professionals' experts in the field of urban elements and furniture have had studies and practical measures regarding organization urban elements and furniture and organizing these urban elements taking into consideration the development of administrative views, improving quality of urban life, establishing communication between the fabricated and natural environments.

The purpose of this investigation

The purpose of organizing and designing appropriate urban furniture is creating a change in urban landscapes and views and giving identity to the city and the priorities and creating an environment with high diversity, creative, freedom of choice for people and establishing of maximum human relationship with the natural and artificial environment, which results in spiritual and psychological relaxation, solace of mind, adornment of space, giving identity and beautification of the city.

Organizing urban furniture includes a wide range of devices, objects, things, symbols, small buildings, spaces, and urban planners. Experts and planners install this with the aim of exploiting of urban public spaces such as streets, roads, parks, squares, and open spaces.

Urban furniture like other elements shaping the urban landscape has three basic features and in case of having all three features, it can meet the functional visual and identity needs of citizens simultaneously: 1) Functional, 2) aesthetic, 3) and having identity.

- Checking the psychological effects and visual pollution and reduction or elimination of the visual pollution in urban space

- Identifying types of urban furniture affecting the visual quality

Research Methodology:

This research method, based on its direct connection with the subject, is in two ways: library and field research by studying and utilizing the views of experts and professors (in terms of urban design, furniture, components and, elements of urban furniture) maps available, field studies of urban spaces, especially public of the design of public spaces and layout, material and shape, form of the installed furniture in different parts of the public spaces and initial impressions of studying the psychological effects of visual pollution in urban space

Conclusion:

Urban furniture is of the most influential factors in urban spaces in the minds of citizens. This is to the extent that residents and even tourists usually remember different regions of a city with its beauty and furniture. Effective furniture and elements in terms of location, dimensions, fit, color, form, shape, and play a significant role in urban spaces.

According to studies and surveys conducted in Semnan and the importance and the role of urban furniture, as one of the most important elements composing urban landscape, it is considered as part of the aesthetic values and elements related to its identity. Unfortunately, for some reasons, elements and urban furniture in

terms of kind, diversity, type, placement, and lack of complete integration with environment does not have a good organization, and while revising in all the mentioned dimensions, some tips should be considered in designing and deployment of urban furniture elements. After conducting studies and examinations, appropriate organization of urban furniture, and the actualization of this project, they are realized the most important of which are listed below.

Problem statement:

Urban landscape is attention to the physical aspects of the city. The word landscape, used to express the surface of the objects, refers to the physical characteristics of the object.

Large segments of the urban landscape beauty depend on the shape, form and its constituent components that is a set of elements, objects, urban furniture, symbols, and small buildings or in other words, urban equipment called urban furniture.

In fact, urban furniture is the most common concepts applied in the field of functional concepts of urban equipment in Persian. This means meeting the man needs to love and being with others requires a physical base and public spaces have the biggest capacity in this respect (Daneshpour and Charkhchian, 2007: 21) or a set of components that are arranged in urban spaces and used by public to meet environmental needs and overshadow urban perspective and identity, which are called urban furniture. By studying geographical, demographic, age, historical identity, and physical properties of Semnan and the role of urban furniture as an important tool for citizens to intervene in perspective of the furniture, the use of urban furniture shows to what extent the public space can provide facilities for community relations. Watching and monitoring the ever-changing urban scene, gathering and meeting the friends and neighbors, or just a few minutes of passing into the public domain all take form based on the quality of furniture offered and the needed levels with a proper cover and the creation of attractive urban landscape.

Semnan has a population of over 167,407 people, an area of 22191 square kilometers, 300,000 square meters of green space area of, 17 square meters of green space per capita, more than 22 local and cross-regional parks, and passages, public spaces, monuments and tourism.

While responding to questions such as, what is the importance of urban furniture in urban life and relationship between urban space and furniture today? Moreover, the role of environmental design and urban furniture in the area of identity and culture

Furniture importance, regardless of a specific period, can be studied and examined from four different perspectives.

1. Attention to the furniture from functional point of view
2. Historians pay more attention to it: furniture is of the very important signs of social status, identification.
3. Attention to the furniture from aspect of technology
4. The quality of using the furniture, as individual and intellectual taste, and dealing with fanciful and aesthetic issues become important

Care in choosing the right furniture, from the design stage to selecting the desired good-quality material, and proper location, can increase the peace of mind and the sense of belonging to the city. In summary, in designing and the establishment of furniture, it is necessary to consider the following:

-The place of establishing the furniture, material and durability of furniture, aesthetic merits, color (stability and texture), functionality, having good pattern, furniture belonging to the place, furniture harmony with the environmental and climatic conditions, the harmony and unity among the furniture, considering the tissue and scale, suitable and well-thought establishment, attention to indigenous culture and identity, preserving the integrity, and choosing the material of the furniture according to the climate of the region

According to studies, the various types of lists of elements, urban equipment and furniture in general are classified as follows. (Pakzad, 2008).

A) Elements and facilities of leisure: 1) (sitting: bench and platforms), 2) water tap, 3) tent, 4) canopy, 5) drinking fountains, 6) Saqakhaneh, 7) fountain-water dispenser, and 8) children's play equipment

B) bio-elements, hygienic-environment: 1) Trashcan, 2) Pots, 3) grid fence around the trees

C) Information elements: 1) Business billboards, 2) Publicity billboards, 3) Streets and passages guiding signs, 4) Urban clocks, 5) Hanging signs, 6) Advertising column, 7) Showcase, 8) Streets and homes numbers, and so on

D) Traffic facilities elements: 1) bus station, 2) bus station platform, 3) Ticket sales booths, 4) Climate footbridge, 5) Pedestrian bridge, 6) Traffic signs, 7) Traffic light, 8) Zebra crossing, 9) Curbs, 10) Railway track, 11) Guardrail, 12) fence and post, 13) Motorcycle and bicycle stop, 14) Fence and wall

E) Elements of urban equipment and facilities: 1) Counter 2) Light, 3) Water path, 4) Restrooms, 5) High-voltage and medium-sized pole, 6) Low Voltage Electric Systems pole, 7) Power cables and wires, 8) Hydrant valve, 9) Regulator and gas pole, 10) wall phone-cables, 11) Land power post, 12) Post box

F) Other elements: such as press kiosks, flower-selling booths, flags and sticks

In Semnan- with more than 24 squares, 15 parks with two tissues (old, traditional, and new tissues) and exquisite and restorable spaces and fit visual space- the organization of urban furniture- proper planning, segmentation and phasing two municipalities, in cooperation with the different organizations, including the central and regions municipality, which are responsible and in charge of implementation of this project, can be realized. This change in the urban landscape with beautification, studying psychological effects of visual pollution and visual pollution removal can visually bring about an interesting space and create a sense of belonging for citizens that during the days and nights spend a part of their lives in the urban space. It also plays an important and effective role in giving identity to the historical and tourist city.

Identification of one part of visual pollution:

- Installing promotional tags without consideration of the proper installation site
- Crowded and messy use of promotional facades
- Metal waste and urban waste cause visual irregularities in the urban space
- Increasing and disturbing signs in the creation confused and messy scene
- The impact of various forms of facades and numbers in the visual pollution
- Blockage of newsstands booths, poor layout, and creating visual pollution
- Visual pollution on the façade, floor, and surface
- Color pollution
- Light pollution (darkness and poor lighting in the evening regarding the space environment)
- Arterial blockages and causing unpleasant sights
- Heterogeneity in the design and inappropriate implementation in cobblestone walk as a public element
- Lack of harmony and unity in the arrangement of elements and urban furniture
- Synthetic colors derived from personal tastes and regardless of the required standards and attention to the historical identity of the city

Solutions and suggestions:

- Creating coordination in covering green space to cover part of the urban elements
- Designing and construction of urban furniture elements according to local, climatic, aesthetic, and cultural conditions of Semnan, part of the problem on the lack of organization or inappropriate organization of urban furniture and efforts done in various cities in terms of choosing the material and organizing urban furniture:
- Accurate location of site for furniture
- Using the experience of leading countries in the field of urban furniture
- Accurate location of urban furniture is essential as a definitive strategy to create healthy and sustainable environment appropriate to local conditions.
- Respecting spatial distribution in harmony with the environmental capacity and number of users, and at the same time avoiding congestion
- Use of the easiest features and elements for designing urban furniture and innovative designs that are at the same time imply the culture
- Having standard models and regulations for elements and updating the image of the city
- Accuracy in facades and the components of a facade in terms of quality, consistency, unity, and composition between the components
- Removing all unnecessary obstacles
- Creating coordination among organization involved in the design, installation and monitoring of urban landscape
- Paying special attention to poor citizens using urban equipment
- Attention to agronomy of females that form half of the population using the urban furniture
- This study is conducted with the help and utilizing the following references and sources:
- Making urban furniture and equipment suitable (Afsah Hosseini, 2006)
- Theoretical principles and urban design processes (Pakzad, Jahanshah, 2009)
- The sense of belonging to the place and its constituent factors (Javan Foroozandeh, 2011)
- Public spaces and factors affecting mass life (Daneshpour and Charkhchian, 2007)
- Urban furniture from the view of landscape and identity of the city (Zahedi Yeganeh, 2010)
- Spatial distribution of urban furniture in city parks and its impact on citizens satisfaction and welcome (Zangiabadi, A .Tajik, Z, 2009)